Principal’s Message

NAPLAN
Students in Years 3 & 5 will be sitting the (National Assessment Program Literacy Numeracy) NAPLAN Tests in language and writing on Tuesday 13th, reading on Wednesday, 14th and numeracy on Thursday 15th May.
The teachers will be assuring students that while it is important for them to sit the test and to try and answer as many questions as they can, they are not to be concerned about the test. They are just to try their best. The NAPLAN is a valuable evaluation tool for teachers to use, analyse and ultimately plan specific programs of work for students. However it is only one way we assess students, not the only way. So while it is important, no pressure should be placed on students to perform beyond their ability.

Students will have the best chance of performing to the best of their ability if they have a good night’s sleep and a healthy breakfast before each test.

It is very important that all students arrive on time for school so that the test can begin as soon after 9.15am as possible.

Mothers’ Day stall
Mothers’ Day will be held on Friday 9th May. Those students who are participating in the District Cross Country on the same day will have the opportunity to purchase a Mothers’ Day gift on Thursday 8th May.

*** helpers are needed to serve on the Mothers’ day stall – please come to the school hall at 9.00am on Friday 9th May.

Penrith Public School P & C Association will be holding a Mother’s Day stall on Friday 9th May. Students will be able to buy a gift with prices ranging from 50c to $10.00.
Stewart House Day 2014 – Friday 9th May

Please return your Stewart House Donation envelopes with your details and a $2.00 coin. Don’t forget to fill in your details on the front of the envelope for a chance to win a family holiday.

‘Stewie the dolphin’ rubber bouncy balls will be on sale from Thursday 8th May at a cost of $3.00. A limited number are available so be quick to avoid disappointment. All proceeds go to Stewart House to contribute to the cost of the program which gives public education students in need a chance to have a break away from their current situations.

Applications for Opportunity Class (OC)

On Monday, 28th April, on-line applications, became available to parents/carers with students in Year Four who wish their child to sit the test (23rd July) for enrolment into an OC class in 2015. Paper application packages will be available on request from school. Paper and on-line applications must be completed by Friday 16th May.

Please contact Mrs Williamson for an “Expression of Interest” form (available now).

Grandparent’s Day

Friday, 23rd May will be a very special day for Penrith Public School. We will be celebrating Grandparents’ and Senior Citizen Friends’ Day at our school. All grandparents and senior citizen friends are invited to visit our school from 9.30am.

Our visitors will have the opportunity to visit their student grandchildren and friends in classrooms between 9.30am and 10.00am. Then each stage will present a musical item for our guests. This will be followed by morning tea. Grandparents and senior citizen friends are welcome to visit the Book Fair in the school library during the morning.

Program:

9.30 – 10.00 – classroom visits

10.00 – Early Stage 1, Stage 1, Stage 2 & Stage 3 students will entertain with musical items in the hall

10.50 – morning tea & Book Fair in the Library

Please note that this is a school day and students should not be leaving school early.

Donations for morning tea are needed for Grandparents’ Day. Please bring all food to craft room verandah before 9.15am on Friday 23rd May

NAPLAN – a skills snapshot

If your child is in Year 3 or 5 they’ll sit NAPLAN tests on May 14-16. And despite what you may have heard there’s no need to panic or start an intensive study program with your child.

Silver Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have earned Silver Awards:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manav Kashyap</th>
<th>Aquila Bavatu</th>
<th>Clayton Benge</th>
<th>Monique Fletcher</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shalom Negasi</td>
<td>Blake Sutton</td>
<td>Courtney Ward</td>
<td>Yashini Rupasinghe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Sharp-Dawson</td>
<td>Caleb Tubie</td>
<td>Liam riley</td>
<td>Keo La Reservee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shontae Abell</td>
<td>Kira-Lee Little</td>
<td>Reece Crimeen</td>
<td>Aliyah Manufekai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlene McRoberts</td>
<td>Kayla Benge</td>
<td>Ali Jaffery</td>
<td>Brock Northey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica McLellan</td>
<td>Bahra David</td>
<td>Rochelle McHugh</td>
<td>Zoe Vogt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Vafaee</td>
<td>Patrick Hunt</td>
<td>Charlotte Webster</td>
<td>Monique Mcclachlan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karitika Kashyap</td>
<td>Hannah Brown</td>
<td>Amali Aiono</td>
<td></td>
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Canteen News -

New canteen menu starts this term!

MEAL DEALS Every Tuesday

Choose your Tuesday Meal Deal Special for just $3.50!!

1. 5 Chicken Crackles or 5 chicken nuggets + Just Juice Popper + Zooper Dooper
2. 3 Hash browns + Just Juice Popper + Zooper Dooper
3. A Fresh Ham, Cheese and Tomato Sandwich + Just Juice Popper + Zooper Dooper
4. A Fresh Chicken, Cheese and Tomato Sandwich + Just Juice Popper + Zooper Dooper

Counsellor's Corner

Group Program Term 2, 2014

I would like to hear from any parents who are interested in attending a parent group over 8 weeks next term, to be run at Penrith Primary during the day either on a Tuesday or Thursday. The group focus would involve strategies regarding coping with significant behaviour issues, eg, ADHD or other behavioural difficulties, in your child at school or home. Topics will include identifying difficult behaviours, managing behaviour, prevention of behaviour issues, special time, managing medication, working with the school. There is no cost for the program, however, it will only run with a minimum of 8-10 interested parents.

Please contact Leanne Goldsmith, School Counsellor, at Penrith Primary School on 4721 2158.

Courses available for children and parents:

Two Years free parenting support to parents of children with a disability. Parents are invited to go to www.mysay.org.au to fill in a survey and register for free parenting support under the Stepping Stones Triple P project

Seasons for Growth program for children coping with loss. Nine weeks, Monday afternoons 4.00-5.30pm from 13th October. Call 4588-3555 Richmond Community Services

Parenting Course – four weeks, Tuesday nights 6.30-10pm with Fusion Australia - $60 per person, $30 concession or $80 per couple, $40 concession. Call 8605 5900 located in St Marys
**BIS Recipe for Success** workshop run by ASPECT Services. Three sessions commencing 6th August 9.30-2.30pm Penrith RSL Club Phone 8977 8325
Free to parents and carers of children with autism.

**National Simultaneous Storytime**

It has become a fond tradition at this school to participate in the annual **National Simultaneous Storytime**, an event held in schools, children’s bookshops, preschools and public libraries across Australia. On Wednesday 21st May, at exactly 11.00 am, we will be enjoying the hilarious picture book “**Too many elephants in this house**” by Ursula Dubosarsky & Andrew Joyner. The official website is at:


Mr Ian McLean
Teacher-Librarian

**Student work online**

We hope you have been enjoying our PhotoPeach digital slideshows. Here are some new ones, as brainstormed by students at Penrith Public. (Remember that they require Flash and an Internet browser to view online.)

**“Ewe and the egg”** by Class 2B:
[http://photopeach.com/album/147iyad](http://photopeach.com/album/147iyad)

**“Chicks ‘R’ Us”** by Class 1IW:

**“Baa baa white sheep”** by 2RB:
[http://photopeach.com/album/lr5qu2](http://photopeach.com/album/lr5qu2)

Mr Ian McLean
Teacher-Librarian

**Lost items of clothing**

With the cooler weather approaching students are prone to lose or misplace items of clothing. With this in mind could you please ensure that each item of your child’s clothing is labelled with their name. Could you also check your child/children’s clothing just to make sure they haven’t picked up another child’s by mistake.
Developing friendship skills in children

Research into children’s friendships shows that those children who are able to form friendships at school are far happier and also learn better. More significantly, a positive beginning to friendships has long-term implications for social and academic success.

Studies also indicate that children can be taught friendship skills. The strategies are simple and revolve around teaching children a range of friendly behaviours, such as:

- talking with others while playing,
- showing an interest in others,
- smiling,
- offering help and encouragement when needed,
- a willingness to share, and
- learning how to enter a game or social situation.

It is also useful to teach children alternatives to fighting and arguing when there is disagreement and conflict within groups.

Gender impacts on the ability to make friends. Recent research has found that girls are further advanced along the stages of friendship than boys.

Gifted children are further advanced along the continuum of friendship behaviours than their peers. They look for more intimate friendships at a far younger age than their peers. This challenges the perception that gifted children have poor social skills. It seems that they have a different concept of friendships than those around them.

It is healthy for children to form friendships inside and outside of school and their regular day settings. It seems that having friends outside school can be quite an insulating factor to teasing and bullying that can occur within the school gate.

Parents often become concerned about an apparent lack of friends that a child has compared to a sibling or a friend. One research project indicated that children on average have only two significant friendships at any one time. Anecdotal evidence suggests that second born children frequently have more friends than first borns and only children prefer one-on-one friendships to group relationships.

Generally, parents need to do little more than teach children sociable behaviours, such as manners and sharing, and provide social situations for children to build and maintain friendships. However some coaching on how to make and keep friends may be useful when children have difficulty in this area.

Try This . . .

Putting it into practice

To promote friendship skills in children try the following four strategies:

1. Help them start up a conversation. Give them some good conversation starters. Make sure they don’t talk about themselves but focus on what interests others.
2. Play games with children and make sure they learn to be gracious winners and good losers.
3. Have one friend at a time over to your home so that they can form friendships one at a time.
4. Show children how to resolve conflict with others by compromising rather than refusing to give some ground.

Action Plan

First Step . . .

Next Step . . .

For more ideas about developing friendship skills in your children visit www.parentingideas.com.au

What’s your child like?

Does your child behave like a good friend?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does he/she</th>
<th>1. Usually hold confidences that others may give?</th>
<th>Yes 2 No 0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Move on easily if conflict occurs rather than sulk or hold grudges?</td>
<td>Yes 2 No 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Usually have a positive outlook and show enthusiasm about most things?</td>
<td>Yes 2 No 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Know how to share his time, space and possessions with others? Yes 2 No 0

5. Give and receive compliments easily? Yes 2 No 0

SCORE:

16: A friendly child. Probably very popular with peers.
6-15: Knows how good friends act but may need to work on skills or attitude. 0-5: Maybe a little self-centred. May need more exposure to a variety of social situations and help with basic friendship skills.

Quote

‘Do not protect yourself by a fence, but rather by your friends.’

Czech proverb

parentingideas.com.au

Published by Michael Grose Presentations Pty Ltd. Ph: 1800 804 884 Fax: (03) 9803 1722 Email: office@parentingideas.com.au PO Box 167, Balnarring 3926 Australia this page is Photocopiable
Fundraiser

Forgotten about Mothers Day?

Come and join us for a fun filled afternoon of Body Shop, Candles, Lingerie, Tupperware, Jewellery & much much more and help raise funds for Penrith PCYC.

Buy that special someone something fun and exciting.

Don’t forget you can always do with more Tupperware for that cupboard.

Gold coin donation upon entry.

Cash or credit card only on the day

Where:- 100 Station Street, Penrith.
When:- Saturday 10th May, 2014.
Time:- 1pm to 4pm
PENRITH LAKES
MODEL SHOW

Date: Monday 9 June, 2014 (Queens Birthday Public Holiday)
Time: 10am – 3pm
Cost: Free entry, $5 per vehicle
Phone: 02 4730 0000
Web: www.regattacentre.nsw.gov.au

The event will feature model displays, active demonstrations, high speed racing and ‘come and try’ opportunities from an array of model clubs including seaplanes, powerboats, nitro cars and scale ships. The Penrith Lakes Model Show will be a fun and festive day out for the whole family, with music, an M.C., entertainment, food stalls and a jumping castle.
### Student Information Sheet

Please return the Information Sheet to your class teacher.

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A copy of this newsletter is also available on the school website along with other school related information [www.penrith-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.penrith-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

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**Penrith Public School**

**Calendar**

### Important Dates 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 2</th>
<th><strong>Clothing Pool</strong></th>
<th><strong>School Banking</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAY</strong></td>
<td>Open every Wednesday</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
| 8 | Students attending the cross country can buy Mothers’ Day gifts today  
   Stewart House bouncy balls on sale for $3.00 | 8.45am - 9.15am |
| 9 | Mother’s day stall  
   District cross country | Every Tuesday morning before school under the COLA |
| 13-15 | NAPLAN for Year 3 & 5 students | 8.30am – 9.10am |
| 23 | Grandparents’ Day |
| 27 | P & C meeting 6.30pm  
   Greg Alexander Shield Stage 3 |
| 29 | Whole school photo |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>JUNE</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rugby league clinic Stage 2&amp;3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Rugby league clinic Stage 2&amp;3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Penrith Basketball tournament Stage 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>NAIDOC Cup</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Rugby league clinic Stage 2&amp;3</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Last day of Term 2</td>
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